

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 01219 251447Z

54

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 INT-08 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSF-04

NSC-10 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-20 SPC-03

FEA-02 EUR-25 DRC-01 /165 W
----- 087527

R 241530Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9239

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1219

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, NP, IN

SUBJ: ENERGY: OIL EXPLORATION IN NEPAL (AND NORTHERNHWNDA)

REF: A) KATHMANDU 0240; B) NEW DELHI A-191, MAY 31, 1973
(NOTAL)

1. IN RESPONSE TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU'S PARA 6 INQUIRY
(REF A) REGARDING REPORT ON OIL-ORIENTED GEOLOGICAL WORK CARRIED
ENDT BY GOI IN UTTAR PRADESH, PLEASE NOTE FOLLOWING:

2. MINATT REVIEWED EMBASSY FILES EXHAUSTIVELY WITH LITTLE
SUBSTANTIVE GAIN. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS WAS ANTICIPATED. WE
CONSTANTLY PROBE FOR INFORMATION OF THIS NATURE, AND MUST AT ALL
TIME RELY ON CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FROM EMBASSY SOURCES WITHIN THE
GOI'S OIL AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION AND THE PETROLEUM MINISTRY
(THE GOI AUTOMATICALLY CLASSIFIED ALMOST EVERYTHING OF A
DETAILED NATURE IN OIL GEOLOGY, GEOPHYSICS, EXPLORATION,
DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION). OUR
INFORMATION IS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 01219 251447Z

REASONABLY GOOD WHERE THE REAL ACTION HAS BEEN IN THE ASSAM

AND KUTCH (GUJARAT) BASINS -- BUT IS SKETCHY FOR THE GANGES (UTTAR PRADESH) AND EAST PUNJAB BASINS (PUNJAB AND JAMMU AND KASHMIR) BECAUSE THE GOI HAS NOT YET CONCENTRATED EXTENSIVELY ON OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION IN THIS GENERAL AREA.

3. ONGC HAS, OF COURSE, CONDUCTED PRELIMINARY GEOLOGIC AND SEISMIC STUDIES OF THE GANGES AND EAST PUNJAB BASINS AND, IN 1970-71, ATTEMPTED A WILDCAT WELL AT SURUIN, 27 MILES SOUTLYAST OF JAAU (REF B). THE WELL WAS TO HAVE BEEN DRILLED TO A MAXIMUM DEPTH OF ABOUT 20,000 FEET, TO PE WWRF MIOCENE#SEDIMENTS IN THE AREA, BUT 20 MONTHS OF DRILLING TO 8,033 FEET (WITH SOVIET ASSISTANCE) PRESENTED ONLY A CONFUSED GEOLOGIC PICTURE AND NO EVIDENCE OF HYDROCARBONS. ONGC TECHNICIANS HAVE LONG DISAGREED ON THE OIL AND GAS POSSIBILITIES UNDER THE GANGETIC PLAIN BECAUSE OF INFERRED COMPLEX GEOLOGY AT DEPTH (FOLDING AND FAULTING CREATED, PRESUMABLE, BY THE UPLIFT OF THE HIMALAYAS). THE NET RESULT HAS BEEN A RELUCTANCE TO RECOMMEND FULL SCALE EXPLORATION IN THE AREA UNTIL OTHER, MORE PROMISING, ON SHORE AND OFFSHORE BASINS HAVE BEEN TAPPED. MEANWHILE, THE SOVIETS CONTINUE TO URGE THE INDIANS TO DO SOMETHING USEFUL IN THIS AREA AT AN EARLY DATE.

IN 1968, PROF N.A. YEREMEM OF THE USSR (REF A) INFORMED THE MINATT THATIBIS STUDIES OF THE BANGES ANDEASTPUNJAB BASINS WERE FAVORABLE FOR THE PRESENCE OF OIL AND GAS FROM SHILLONG (KTSAM) TO GORAKHPUR AZUT GLWFTEFQWNL,#AND IN THE JAMMUSURUIN AREA OF JAMXI AND KASHMIR. ONGC BASED ITS SURUIN WILDCAT ON YEREMENKO'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

4. IN ITE 1971 "PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OIL INDUSTRY IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN INDIA FOR THE PERIOD 1971-74 AND FORECAST FOR THE PERIOD 1976-80", A SOVIET "TECHNO-ECONOMIC" TEAM CHIDED ONGC FOR THE INSIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF WORK COMPLETED THUS FAR IN THE EAST PUNJAB AND GANGES BASINS (AND UG THREE OTHER AREAS AS WELL: RAJASTHAN, CAUVERY AND WEST BENGAL BASINS). THUKREPORT PROPOSES AN IMMEDIATELY-ACCELERAGED PROGRAM IN EACH OF THESE 5 BASINS IN ORDER TO DISCOVER AND DEVELOP 3 OILFIELDS (SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE 5 BASINS) "WITH 30 MILLIOKPTONS" (217.5 MILLION BARRELS) OF "PROVED RECOVERABLE RESERVES OF OIL BY 1980". DRILLING HAS BEEN UNITIATED IN RAJASTHAN, AND HAS BEEN STEPPED UP IN THE CAUVERY BASIN. WE HAVE NOTHING TO REPORT ON THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 01219 251447Z

WEST BENGAL BASIN AND, WITH THE SURUIN WILDCAT STILL A RECENT EMBARRASSMENT TO ONGC, WE DO NOT EXPECT A RESUMPTION OF ACTIVITIES SOON IN EITHER OF THE TWO NORTH INDIAN GEOLOGIC BASINS.
SCHNEIDER

NOTE BY OCT: #TEXT AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED UPON REQUEST.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPLORATORY DRILLING, OIL FIELDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE01219
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740119/aaaaarbr.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) KATHMANDU 0240; B) NEW DELHI A-19, 1, MAY 31, 1973
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <13 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENERGY: OIL EXPLORATION IN NEPAL (AND NORTHERNHWNDIA)
TAGS: ENRG, NP, IN
To: STATE KATHMANDU
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005